



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Bobby Cagle, MSW**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Sunshine School recognized by Governor Nathan Deal and  
DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle**

***Marietta Program among First in the State to enroll in Quality Rated***

**ATLANTA, Ga., (April 11, 2012)** – The Sunshine School, located at 1415 Old Canton Road in Marietta, Georgia, was recently recognized by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and Bobby Cagle, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), for being one of the first child care providers in the state to enroll in Quality Rated, Georgia’s new voluntary system to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs.

Similar to rating systems for other service industries like restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated identifies early care and education programs that meet a set of standards exceeding the state’s minimum licensing requirements. The program launched in January, 2012. More than 500 providers have enrolled in Quality Rated.

“We were very pleased to see The Sunshine School among the first in the state to enroll in Quality Rated,” said Commissioner Cagle. “With more than 500 centers voluntarily enrolling in only three months, we can see how this program is being enthusiastically embraced by both families and child care professionals across the state.”

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“We believe in offering a high quality program,” said Raye Lynn Banks, program director of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta – The Sunshine School. “We are already NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accredited and by participating in Georgia’s Quality Rated, we can ensure that our children and parents are going to receive the best.”

Programs choosing to participate in Quality Rated become eligible for free professional development, technical assistance, and financial incentive packages to support quality improvements. Starting in 2013, families will be able to verify if a provider is participating in Quality Rated and to see the quality rating they have achieved by visiting the Bright from the Start website at [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).

To learn more about Quality Rated, sign up for a Quality Rated orientation session sponsored by your local child care resource and referral agency by clicking the following link: <https://www.cnp2000.decal.ga.gov/QualityRatedTraining/Splash.asp> or visit the Quality Rated webpage at <http://www.qualityrated.decal.ga.gov> where eligible programs can begin the application process. For answers to questions about Quality Rated, call the Quality Rated Help Desk at 1-855-800-7747.

### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).

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**PHOTO CAPTION:** Raye Lynn Banks (left), director of The Sunshine School in East Cobb and granddaughter, Abby, meet Governor Nathan Deal. The Sunshine School was the first pilot participant to submit their Quality Rated portfolio.